



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Mid-Month Meeting & AGM held at Graig Hall at 7pm on 12th May 2021

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Prior to the meeting beginning, Cllr Gregory addressed Council. He said it was good to see everyone face to face for the first time since February 2020.

1. To receive apologies for absence: Cllrs J Bailey, D Williams.

Present: Cllrs R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, M Smart, K Sayer, P Gregory, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, P Appleton, K Thomas, N Tarr, J Taylor, S Davies (Clerk). Chaired by P Gregory.

2. To receive declarations of interest: None

Cllr Harris joined the meeting at 7.09pm

3. To hold internal election and appoint members to sub-committees: Internal elections were held. Nominations for Chair were as follows: Cllr Gregory - nominated by Cllr Smart, seconded Cllr Appleton and agreed by majority.

Nominations for Vice-Chair were as follows: Cllr Sayer - nominated by Cllr Taylor, seconded Cllr Tarr and Cllr Harris - nominated by Cllr Haigh, seconded Cllr Smart. The nominees were asked to leave the room whilst a vote was taken, Cllr Harris was appointed Vice-Chair by majority vote.

Cllrs were appointed to the various committees and working groups.

Cllr Harris reminded Council that it was Graig Community Council's turn for holding the Chairmanship of the Burial Committee. This should have happened in 2020 but due to Covid restrictions, the AGM for the committee did not take place so the Chairman of the time remained in post.

Action: Clerk to update records and circulate the new list of committee members once complete.

4. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th April 2021: The minutes were read and discussed briefly, and subject to a small change were agreed. Proposed Cllr Caston, seconded Cllr Harris. Cllr Harris informed Council that the Community Payback team would be starting work on some litter picking duties in the ward in a couple of weeks. They could also be utilised for clearing up scrubland. **Action: Clerk to amend the minutes as agreed and publish.**

5. Accounts for payment: Proposed Cllr Thomas, seconded Cllr Haigh and approved.

PWLB – Bi-annual loan repayment	£5170.80
Mark Wallace Electrical Ltd – PAT testing at Rhiwderin Centre	£93.60
Mark Wallace Electrical Ltd – PAT testing at Graig Hall	£21.60
ICO – Annual data protection renewal fee	£40.00
Betterclean Services – 90 day Covid-19 sanitation treatment for both centres	£450.00
Newport City Homes – Grass cutting at Fort View play area Mar 21	£212.04
Welsh Water – Bassaleg Allotment water costs Oct 20 – Apr 21	£44.08
Total	£6032.12

Receipts

Newport City Council – 1 st Precept payment	39257.40
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6. Planning - Applications to be considered:

a. 21/0289 – Proposal: Proposed first floor extension over existing garage. Site: 20 Ffos-y-Fran, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8LU. Application Type: Full. **Comment: No objections**

b. 21/0345 Proposal: Proposed single storey rear and side extension. Site: Farrier's Cottage, 9B Caerphilly Road, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8LE. Application Type: Full. **Comment: No objections**

c. 21/0360 – Proposal: Proposed new sports facilities including two all-weather third generation (3G) pitches, improved grass rugby pitch and multi-use games area, sustainable drainage, landscaping and other associated works. Site: Bassaleg School, Forge Road, Bassaleg, Newport. Application Type: Full.

Comment: To be discussed further as it was felt that insufficient information was given to properly determine.

d. 21/0422 – Proposal: Demolition of garage and construction of a single storey extension. Site: 6 Garth Close, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8NX. Application Type: Full. **Comment: Council had concerns about**

reducing the available parking in this already very congested Close. Current parking issues mean parked cars already regularly block the entrance to a PROW and narrows the turning bay at the end of the Close making turning problematic. The proposal is likely to exacerbate the parking issues further. A site visit is recommended.

7. Items for discussion:

- a. Draethen Bridge and possible collaboration with Rudry & Draethen Community Council (C) – The Clerk informed Council of an email received from a Cllr to the Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry Community Council. In it the Cllr requested the help of the Clerk to resolve maintenance issue with the road bridge into Draethen from the A468 which was in need of repair. Additionally, she requested that the two councils, as close neighbours, could collaborate on some projects together and form closer ties. Council agreed this would be desirable and asked the Clerk to invite the DWR Cllr to one of Council's Mid Month meetings so this could be discussed. **Action: Clerk to assist with discovering who is responsible for the road bridge maintenance and invite the Cllr to the June Mid Month meeting.**
- b. Caerphilly Rd/Close junction (LF) – Cllr Fry asked Council if they would like to consider again some kind of scheme at the junction of Caerphilly Rd/Close. This had been discussed some years back but difficulty with underground services and costs meant a scheme did not take place. Cllr Fry thought it should be reconsidered as the gateway to the villages when travelling from the Caerphilly area and would improve a visible but not attractive area. This was discussed and it was felt that the area was tidy enough at present, that it is useful to the Police who park there to perform speed camera operations, that it would cause maintenance issues and underground services would restrict options. The majority of Cllrs felt money could be better spent elsewhere. **Action: None necessary.**
- c. The Griffin memorial garden proposal (LF) – Cllr Fry had supplied a plan previously for the area with some hard landscaping, trees etc. He felt this could incorporate a memorial bench or some Tommy figurines and the area could be utilised as part of the Remembrance celebrations and also be a nice remembrance/contemplation garden all year around. This was thought to be a good idea, and a working group of Cllrs Fry, Appleton, Smart Taylor, Whitfield and Tarr agreed to meet to discuss options. The meeting would also be open to any other Cllr wanting to be involved. Cllr Whitfield agreed to lead the group and arrange the meeting. Cllr Sayer expressed reservations regarding ongoing maintenance of any scheme put in place as it would further lean on the 4 or 5 active members of the Horticultural Working Group and Cllr Caston was concerned it may detract from the official war memorial at the Lychgate at St Basil's Church. Cllr Fry was thanked for his hard work on this proposed project. **Action: Cllr Whitfield to arrange a meeting on site to discuss ideas. The group to settle on a suggested course of action and return to Council for further discussion and approval if necessary.**

8. Reports:

- a. Police (April report received) – The Police report for April 2021 was read at the meeting. The report contained the following information: There had been 17 crimes during April, categorised as follows: Public Order 1, Violence Without Injury 3, All Other Theft 1, Criminal Damage & Arson 5, Violence With Injury 4, Other Sexual Offences 1, Robbery 1 Shoplifting 1, Vehicle Crime 0 and Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society 0.
The ward priority for Graig was still anti-social behaviour around the Morrison's and McDonald's area. Activities by the local NPT: Continuing to monitor anti-social behaviour levels around McDonald's and Morrison's premises and making monthly visits to crime victims and vulnerable residents. Reports had been received about fly tipping, anti-social behaviour and livestock being annoyed in the fields in Rhiwderin. A joint patrol had taken place involving Newport City Community Wardens to deal with these issues and patrols would continue in the area. Rural Crime Officers has also been notified. A vehicle had been recovered for no insurance in the Bassaleg area.
It was noted there was a growing issue with off road bikes.
Ward surgeries were being held on 17th May 21 between 3 & 4pm and on 4th June between 3 & 4pm both held in the area of McDonald's. **Action: None requested.**
- b. City Councillors (DW) – Cllr Williams was unable to join the meeting. It was agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent from Council on his becoming Mayor of Newport. **Action: Clerk to send Cllr Williams a letter of congratulations as requested.**

9. Items for next agenda if agreed:

NHS and Key Workers celebrations – Mid-month meeting 9th June 2021

10. Urgent other business not on the agenda:

- a. Cllr Taylor asked if it could be arranged to have an extra grass cutting performed at St Basil's shops roundabout. The grass had not been cut by NCC and the area looked very unkempt despite the hard work

of the Horticultural Group. Cllr Appleton offered to contact NCC. **Action: Cllr Appleton to contact NCC before further arrangements were made.**

- b. The Clerk advised Council that a remote Liaison meeting was being arranged and she had been asked to forward any items Council wished to have added to the agenda. Cllr Gregory asked if Graig's issue of City Cllr representation for Graig could be added. He felt that due to the current circumstances and with Cllr Williams becoming Mayor, his workload would be increasing so there were concerns about being properly represented. The Clerk reminded Council that only issues that affected other community councils also could be discussed at the meeting and this would not fall into that category for discussion unfortunately. Cllrs were asked to consider if anything else needed to be added and to inform the Clerk within a few days so it would be in time to be added to the Liaison meeting agenda. **Action: For information. Cllrs to inform Clerk of Liaison meeting agenda items within the next few days.**
- c. Cllr Haigh informed the group that following issues with the Burial Committee and inaction of NCC to determine the make-up of the committee, he had arranged for the Chairman to meet with Ruth Jones, Newport West's Member of the Welsh Parliament. Whilst she was sympathetic to Graig's plight it was not within her remit to get involved. He believed as a next step that the First Minister should be informed and intended writing to him to ask for intervention. **Action: Cllr Haigh to progress.**

11. Dates of next meetings

Finance Review – Wednesday 19th May at Graig Hall at 7pm

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 26th May 2021 at Graig Hall at 7pm

Mid-Month Meeting – Wednesday 9th June 2021 at Graig Hall at 7pm

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.45pm

Signed (Chair) – 09.06.21

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